

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## You Only Have Four Short Years . . .

The reason a college campus is noted for its vast store of knowledge, or so our reference copy of Esquire tells us, is that freshmen bring with them so much of the commodity and seniors take so little of it away.

This should be of interest to you, as freshmen at A&M, because it isn't so true these days as it may have been in the past. You may bring a lot of knowledge with you, but the seniors have changed the order of things—they are taking increasing quantities of the commodity with them when they graduate. This should mean one thing to you—you will have to take full advantage of the opportunities to increase your store of knowledge in the four short years you will be in college to maintain the trend, for it is a significant trend.

Your primary purpose for coming to college is to get an education. You choose A&M for any one of a number of reasons. Maybe your Dad went here. Maybe it has the course of instruction you are interested in, perhaps you came because of the military training program, or maybe you came because you heard it was a good school. Any of these and many more are good reasons for coming to A&M, but, as we said, the primary reason for anyone coming to college is to get an education.

Education is something that is acquired by hard work. You can't come to college and sit around, hoping to "get educated" by a process of absorption. You must work. Your first resolution should be to work and study. In that way you can learn. Don't make it your goal to pass, make it your goal to learn and you will pass.

One of the greatest assets you can acquire in school is the ability to transmit your ideas to other people. That means you must master the English language. Determine now to do that, for if you do it will enable you to do more satisfactory work throughout your college career, and do it more easily.

## The Mark of An Educated Man . . .

The educators of the U. S. are currently engaged in a squabble which affects us directly and seriously. The issues concern the manner by which an "educated man" may be produced. Most of our educators can recognize an educated man when they see one. Few of them can tell how he was produced. That is, they can not go to his background and pick out the particular fundamental educational steps that distinguished him from his fellow creatures.

As a result of their confusion of thought and their inability to pick out the primary factors, they have given us confused educational programs and confused school goals. The pendulum swings from pure technical training to the broad liberal arts courses. Neither extreme has yet concocted a formula by which they could take 100 students and make them react with 140 hours of college work and get out 100 educated men. They can't produce 25 educated men per 100. Their efficiency rating is now about 3 percent.

An educated man is most often characterized by his understanding of other men. He usually is a master of practical psychology. When he chooses he can command the respect and interest of his colleagues and neighbors. In connection with this ability he usually has power over language. He can communicate accurately and interestingly with either his pen or his tongue.

An educated man is characterized by

Learn to read extensively. Not only required reading, but try to do outside reading too. It will help you gain a better appreciation of the work you are doing by giving you a broader outlook.

Education is not all books, studying, and writing. Coupled with those things, and just as important, are student activities. Whether the activity which interests you is student government, a club sponsored by men in your line of study, sports, or any of the other subjects, make it a point to enter into some form of student activity.

Music? Try the band, the singing cadets or the Aggieband Orchestra.

Publications or journalism? Students sponsor and work on the Battalion, the Longhorn, the Commentator, the Agriculturist, the Engineer, and the Southwestern Veterinarian.

Sports? You can join teams for any and every sport you can think of. A&M has top notch teams in golf, tennis, swimming, shooting, rodeo, cattle judging, and debate to name just a few. If you don't find one suited to your interests, then form one.

Take part in student government. If you can't take part in it, then take an interest in it, for its activities are of vital concern to you.

There is an increasing tendency to allow students to take over the reins of student body government, and the more interest shown in assuming the responsibilities entailed, the better opportunity there will be for you to gain valuable experience in working for and with other people.

The list of opportunities offered at A&M could be extended for pages, but that isn't necessary. They are all here, waiting for you to take advantage of them. They are here for that purpose. Make use of them. You'll only be here for four years and you'll find that the time passes quickly. Good luck!

his ability to understand himself. He is rarely the subject of fears and frustrations that bedevil the rest of the human race. He is able to reconcile and adapt himself to his environment with a minimum of fuss and complaining. He usually masters a trade or profession that makes him self supporting. He is never a parasite in the literal sense.

An educated man is able to gather and interpret facts without the guidance of a teacher, or politician as the case may be. He is characterized by the inquisitiveness that marks the minds of growing children. He is never satisfied with his knowledge or his abilities. He always seeks to improve what nature has given him.

An educated man is able to take pleasure from his life. He makes this easier by extending his interests and his abilities to as many fields of expression as possible. He acquaints himself with both the fine arts and the practical arts. He can enjoy both classical music and folk music. He can enjoy both fine paintings and greek sculpture along with the crude carvings of a neighbor boy.

The pattern of an educated man is marked by three abilities. The ability to serve others; the ability to grow; the ability to enjoy life. It is within our power to adopt this pattern for our use. Our educational system will not force it upon us. Our educators can give us little guidance. Our hope lies within ourselves.

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published tri-weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Subscription rate \$4.30 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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## Amplification Department

By CARROL TRAIL

Dear Sir: I am a freshman at A&M, having entered this fall. Like all other freshmen, I was put out here at the annex in an old broken down army barracks away from civilization. Do you think that such a situation is conducive to study? Don't you think that regular campus life is missing from such a desolate place? I don't think that I am getting the full benefits from my college experience out here.

Sincerely, A. L. Answer? A. L., I feel I am qualified to answer your question since I have lived at both places. You think that the annex is bad. You are wrong. You are out in the "wide open spaces" where the air is clean and healthful. You are away from the congested city life; you are living close to Mother Nature. The classrooms out there have been spaced just far enough apart to keep one in good physical condition, for, as you will find out when you begin classes, it will be necessary to jog at a rapid pace

from the chemistry building to the drawing lab to make class in time. On the main campus we are crowded into dank brick catcombs. Our classes are located mostly in a few buildings just fifty yards apart. We do not get the sunshine and fresh air you do. We don't condition ourselves by periodic hikes between buildings. We are a bunch of softies. Ah, yes, A. L., you have the good fortune of being at the Annex. Don't spoil it by thinking that the grass might be greener elsewhere.

## Batt Editors Say 'Thanks'

We believe that the long hours spent by the feature writers, staff reporters, photographers, engravers, and the print shop men, in the preparation of this issue should not go unmentioned. To all these people and others, we say "thanks"—The Editors.

## Traditions & Customs Such As These Are the Spirit of A&M

By C. C. MUNROE

Every school has its own particular customs and traditions, and A&M is no exception. Even if you're new to this school, if you are from Texas you have heard of some of the many traditions for which A&M is famous—muster day, the Aggie handshake, Silver Taps, the "Turkey Day" bonfire, and many others.

These traditions are not maintained by any law, but are passed down from class to class, from man to man until they have become synonymous with A&M itself.

If you have been here for some time, you have heard stories, some true, some not true, concerning many of the Aggie traditions. These stories, regardless of their origin, are as much a part of A&M as the classrooms, Sully's statue, or Final Review.

Who is it that has not come in contact with an A&M man that did not learn of the Aggie custom of meeting people? Or of the friendly handshake that has become so much a part of all of us?

If you have spent any time on the campus, you know of the tradition of speaking to all those you pass. Nothing has done more to create and maintain a friendly spirit among the students than that. Before the student body was so large it was customary for everyone to know everyone else. That is impossible these days, but the tradition of speaking has lived on.

Perhaps the one thing that has done more to spread the name of A&M across Texas and across the nation has been hitchhiking. Every town in the state has its "Aggie line," where, rain or shine, on every weekend throughout the year Aggies congregate, going to and from school.

If you haven't spent any time on an Aggie corner, you have something in store. There you can meet, and probably spend a lot of time with, your classmates. There the stories of A&M, its traditions and its customs are retold hundreds of times. When you walk up to that corner, step up and meet the men there. The tales of many rides will be flowing.

Don't forget, when you get a ride, introduce yourself to the driver and occupants of the car. If they have any trouble, give them all the assistance you can. When you leave, tell them how much you appreciated their kindness, for your future ride and the future ride of your classmates will depend on the impression you make.

There are other, more solemn traditions at A&M. Perhaps the most impressive and the saddest of these is Silver Taps, held to honor a deceased Aggie. The day Silver Taps is to be held the flag is flown at half-mast. Then, at 11 o'clock that night the student body forms in front of the Academic Building to pay their last tribute. As the deceased man's company comes to attention behind Sully's statue and as the dormitory lights go out, six buglers sound Taps from atop the Academic Building. Three times the call is sounded, and then the students return quietly to their rooms.

There are other customs and traditions—Final Review, the bonfire before the Turkey Day Game with the "sips", those long anticipated corps trips, the pride and honor that shall always come when a senior dons his boots, midnight yell practices before the games, the Senior Ring Dance, and many, many others.

The Spirit of Aggiehood is made up of such things, coupled with a pride in a bright past and a brighter future. You'll hear the stories of them all, told again and again. They may not mean much to an outsider, but they are a vital part of life at A&M.

They are our traditions and those of the men who have gone before us. They are yours now too.

## Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

# Difficult Decision Confronts Courts Over Ruling on Kisses

By FRANK CUSHING

The Supreme Court of Michigan has a weighty problem facing it. The learned judges must assemble with full legal regalia and discuss the pros and cons of kissing and the techniques used by those practicing the art.

The court has been appealed to set aside the decision rendered in a lower court upon a case brought against a wolfish boss by a teen-age high school girl. The trial court ruled that an assault and battery was committed by the masher.

An effective defense was made by the employer's lawyer but to no avail. The smooth talking lawyer first pointed out that a previous decision by the supreme court of that state had ruled that a mere kiss, "not involving ruce or aggressive or brutal action of any kind" did not constitute assault and battery. He further made a sly appeal to the human side of the judge by saying, "Everyone knows that a friendly kiss from the boss in an everyday occurrence in the business world." We trust that he meant to say everyone does but the wife, and she suspects.

The state is no doubt waiting with great concern to see if the supreme court backs up the lower court's decision. That bonner must be shown that the courts, as well as heaven, protect the poor working girl.

A fellow in Detroit, Michigan, should have let well enough alone the other day. As the thug who had just robbed him of \$15.00 fled, he robbed one looked about him for a quick means of summoning aid. Signaling a fire alarm box he pulled the designated lever. The next day he was forced to pay a \$50.00 fine for turning in a false alarm.

Even such stable institutions as banks seem to forget their dignity under the influence of Hollywood. A new bank out there has announced its plans for a grand opening. The first depositor will be Dorothy Lamour. She'll show up, lift her skirts, and extract a roll of bills from the top of her nyons. (Why the poor clerk who'll have to attempt to record the transactions in a business like way.) Another depositor will be Lassie. That noted actor will put away a bone for safe-keeping.

A female bicycle race in France was started under peculiar circumstances the other day. The girls were tensed in expectation, a shot was fired and all but one got off to a excited start. The girl who didn't get off with a flying start, it turned out, was wounded. The official starter whiny exclaimed that his gun was as yet unired.

The facts were uncovered that the race was started merely by the wounded girl, not so sweet, sweetie. He had become gripped at his love for one reason or another and decided to set her alow now he reit.

Dallas has some real, super-service, gasoline stations now. A car pulled in one yesterday and a frantic looking husband jumped out to inform the attendant that the stork was winning the race to the hospital.

The attendant calmed the man down somewhat, and they then proceeded to put on a dud baby rearing team. The Doctor arrived in time to bath and weigh the baby in front of the station.

No doubt now the signs upon all competing gas stations will have to be altered to offer Free Air, Water and Midwife Service.

## Yantis and Twiggins Part of Batt Traditions; Their Origins Lost In Conflicting Reports

By CARROL TRAIL

Wherever there is an institution with colorful traditions and a picturesque past, there are just as colorful and picturesque characters, both legendary and factual, who make the institution what it is.

And A&M is no exception. It, too, boasts some personages whose very existence is mingled with the development and growth of the college. Most of these men are real—some are "fictitious"; some are a mixture of both.

It is often hard to separate the truth from the fiction. From as far back as the great Lawrence Sullivan Ross down through the years to the reign of the fabulous "Jarrin" John Kimbrough have come tales of these men's exploits. And with each re-telling there has been added just enough fantasy to make the separation of the real from the imagined a near-impossibility.

Two such recent characters whose real background has been lost with time are the two Battalion "reporters" Conrad V. Twiggins and Ivan Yantis. These men have associated with them a section of A&M history all their own. After being with the paper just two years, they have made a name for themselves symbolic with progress and achievement.

These men's pasts are so clouded with conflicting reports that it is hard to sort out the truth from the fictitious. However, a few pseudo-facts are known.

Twiggins is a native of Wellborn Brazos County, Texas. Just when and under what circumstances he was born is not known. But rumor has it that he is approximately 57. He is not an enrolled Aggie, but he claims he is one by proxy. He is taking a course by correspondence leading to a bachelor of philosophy degree.

He has always taken an active interest in local politics, having waged three unsuccessful major campaigns. Twice he was defeated for chairmanship of the Brazos County Thought Control Association, and last spring he ran a poor fourth for the editorship of the Batt.

He says he has no intention of entering A&M as a regular student. He believes he can be of more service to the students and residents of the community if he stays out and continues to wage his fight to clean up local politics.

Ivan Yantis' past is even more unknown than Twiggins'. A native of the Soviet Union, he left the country during the revolution.

He claims that he is a "white" Russian, but his copper beard sometimes makes one think he might be "Red". He is a husky 6 footer, weighing 195 pounds.

He originally came to A&M to major in English, but he decided after his first freshman course he could write better than the pros, so he got a job as roving reporter on the Batt.

Since he has gone out on his first mission, he has never returned to school long enough to settle down. He has been with an excavating crew in New Mexico; he covered the royal wedding in London; he explored Africa; he was shipwrecked in the Pacific; he has been on a giraffe in India; on an elephant—the Republican convention, on a donkey at the Democratic convention.

He covered the Dixiecrats' meetings in Birmingham and Houston, business manager.

He was nominated for president of Vanderbilt University, and was feted last spring by a college banquet.

His reports are always clever as he generally gives the funny side of the news. He even has

## Wide Selection of Ag Material Planned in Fall Agriculturist

By C. C. MUNROE

Kenneth F. Smith, senior Ag. Eco. major from Amarillo, has been named editor of this year's Agriculturist by the Agriculture Council, Roland Bing, director of student publications has announced.

The Agriculturist, which is the official publication of the Agriculture department, presents a variety of agricultural material to the student for his general information. In addition it provides training for students interested in agricultural journalism by giving them an opportunity to become familiar with the procedure for preparing and publishing a technical magazine. The publication also serves as a sounding board to measure the achievements of agriculture societies on the campus.

This year will mark the second full year of publication for the Agriculturist since the war. It was established during the 1940-1941 school year, but publication was suspended during the war. Prior to that time it was combined with the magazine now known as the Engineer and was known as the Scientific Review.

The Scientific Review was the outgrowth of an earlier publication, The Texas Aggie Countryman.

Material used in the Agriculturist is collected, written and edited by agriculture students.

Active participation in the functions of the Agriculturist is unlimited. Any agricultural student, regardless of academic classification, is urged to write articles for the magazine. There are positions open to students who wish to become members of the editorial staff of the Agriculturist, and any others interested in any phase of agricultural journalism are urged to participate in its publication.

Headquarters for the 1948-49 Agriculturist are in Room 207, Goodwin Hall.

Just how much of it is true, I couldn't say. I have just repeated what I have heard.

## 'The Southwest Veterinarian' Published Four Times A Year

A relatively new publication to the campus is the Southwest Veterinarian sponsored by the A&M Student Chapter of the AVMA.

Making its debut in May of this year, it was immediately dubbed a success by its readers, among whom are more than 1500 practicing veterinarians.

Primarily planned to appeal to veterinarians and others in veterinary work the Veterinarian is devoted mainly to technical articles in which graduate and student veterinarians pass along their experiences and experiments in healing animals.

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## Milk Produced By Indian Buffaloes Rich in Butterfat

Buffaloes of India give forty pounds of milk daily averaging from seven to nine percent butterfat, according to S. Z. Karrem of Pakistan.

Karrem is a graduate of the Agricultural College, Lahore, Pakistan, and is now attending A&M doing graduate work in Dairy Technology. Sponsored by his government, Karrem plans to get his M. A. and Ph.D. here in the United States.

It is just in the last few years that any attention has been given to production records. In the All India Milk Competition of India in 1940, 17 cows and 15 buffaloes were entered. Of all breeds of cattle milked in India very closely resemble our Brahma breed.

Of the 15 buffaloes entered 7 were of the Murrah breed, 5 Bavy, and 3 were Nili. The results of this contest confirmed the belief that the buffalo receives greater attention in the villages and are much better fed and cared for.

The buffalo is a large animal and nearly hairless. Of course, it has a switch on the tail but only a few other hairs on the body, these being on the belly.